



## The Newsletter

APRIL 2009

### OPUS IN THE GREENS

The Ritinjali fund raiser on the 21st of March at Anandgram was a Musical Extravaganza by soloist Sonam Kalra who sang a selection of ballads, gospel pieces and jazz standards. Her music was a joyous mix of classics like 'Irish Ballad' and the eternally moving gospel 'Amazing Grace' which complemented lively jazz favourites like 'Mack the Knife' and 'Orange Coloured Sky'. Sonam's repertoire included songs which had a special meaning for everyone in the audience who sat enthralled right through the two hours of her show.

Sonam was accompanied by Alex Fernandes, an accomplished pianist on the keyboard and by Tony Quadros, a very versatile instrumentalist on the saxophone.

The dinner that followed the musical performance was sumptuous and the large gathering of well-wishers who attended the programme were highly appreciative of the doubly delectable fare of excellent food and enchanting music.

### KUSUMPUR PAHARI

There were a spate of visitors to the centre in the course of the month. Mrs. Dhillon, a volunteer visited the centre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. She sends Bournvita and Rooh Afza milk for the children every week.

Ria Nakita, a research student from the University of Tokyo visited the Centre on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March and interacted with the children and teachers for about an hour. Mrs. Dhar and Dilreen visited the centre on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March.

Max, the volunteer from Germany came to say his goodbyes before he left for his country. He has been working as a volunteer at the Centre for two months and was able to adapt himself very well despite the cultural differences, the language barrier and participated whole heartedly in all the activities.

Ritika Bedi, a volunteer spent a month at the learning centre working with the children of all the 3 levels on English and Art. The children enjoyed the various activities with her.

The OBE exams were held from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2009. Of the 6

students who appeared for the exam, 2 of them appeared for the class 8 exam and 4 of them appeared for the class 5 exam. They are all happy with their performance.

***Two students from the Centre, Ankit Kumar and Dipanjali of level I were admitted to class I of Chinmaya Vidyalaya. Twelve children from all the 3 levels were admitted to the primary wing of the M.C.D. School.***

The children were very happy with the shoes that were gifted to them from the Mahipalpur office.

A mobilization drive was conducted to bring in more children from the local community to the learning centre.

A staff meeting was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April with Dilreen and Mrs. Dhar in attendance and the agenda focused on targets to be set by teachers and monthly progress updates.

The academic lessons for the three levels in English, Hindi and Math have been conducted according to plans drawn by the teachers. In addition, stories from the Panchatantra were read out

to the children all through the month.

Milk, banana, biscuits, matti and sweets were given twice a week to the children.

### **VOCATIONAL CENTRE I**

#### **Cutting and Tailoring**

The students were taught to draft, cut and stitch simple suits, four piece petticoats and blouses in addition to the cleaning and oiling of sewing machines. 100 bags were also stitched at this centre.

#### **Beauty Culture**

The girls were given demonstrations and practice in different designs of Mehendi and hairstyles and also taught bleaching and threading.

### **VOCATIONAL CENTRE II**

The students learnt to draft paper patterns and stitch blouses, baby garments, butterfly salwar, six piece petticoat and double belt blouse.

They were also put through the drill of cleaning and oiling machines.

### **NATHUPUR PAHARI**

The learning centre has been rebuilt and has been enclosed within small walls. A team from American Express visited the centre along with Mrs. Anju Dhar and Dilreen. School bags and

stationery were distributed to the students.

***The volunteers from American Express along with Mrs. Dhar took 38 students of the centre for a picnic to the Garden of the Five Senses. It was an enjoyable day and the students had a great time exploring the garden and in the process learning about the five senses.***

The volunteers also distributed slippers to all the children.

An Art and Craft workshop was organized by American Express at Nathupur. Using waste materials and clay the children were taught to make various objects.

The teachers undertook mobilization drives in the Nathupur Pahari and village several times during the month to convince parents to send their children to the learning centre to reap the benefits of education. Their efforts have paid off and the number of children now enrolled at the centre stands at 90.

The question papers for levels A and B of the OBE were formulated. The students were prepared for the OBE examinations by making them practice with mock question papers. 11 students appeared for the OBE exam and all of them have performed quite well. The results are awaited.

Reena and Hema, the teachers of levels 1 and 2 have conducted lessons in English, Hindi and Math according to detailed plans drawn up. In addition several topics were discussed to enhance the general awareness of the children and to promote an interest for the arts. Children requiring extra help to get a better grip over academics are taught separately.

A number of games were organized for the students and there was poetry reading on the topic 'Laya'. 4 students were mainstreamed in Government Schools in and around Nathupur. They continue to be monitored by the teachers so that they settle down well in the new school and there is no setback to their progress.

The significance of Holi was explained to the students and stories of Prahlad, Hiran Kashyap and Holika were narrated. The children and teachers enjoyed splashing colours on each other during the Holi celebrations at the Centre.

***Ms. Rekha Krishnan distributed food to the children. Ms. Poonam Tandon distributes bananas and biscuits regularly at the centre.***

#### **Dalil Ekta Camp**

The students are a greatly motivated lot ever since the students of Vasant Valley School have started taking classes for them. Lessons in English, Hindi

and Math covering a range of concepts and skills taught in an interesting manner have kept the students engaged in learning process.

### **Night School**

About 17 boys have been attending classes regularly during the month. As an incentive to the boys to attend classes and not give up on the learning process, Mr. Aditya a volunteer promised that he would give cash awards of Rs. 1000/- to those boys who had 60% attendance and 60% aggregate marks in the tests. He also offered attractive scholarships to those boys who passed four consecutive tests.

***Some of the boys like Arjun and Sunder have been motivated as a result and have been regular to classes. Arjun is preparing for the class 12 exams.***

***Natwar Mukhiya, one of the Night School boys learnt the basic operations in Math quickly and has graduated to the job of Account Keeper in his shop at the INA market.***

***Ram Sagar who was illiterate when he joined the Night School has mastered the Hindi alphabet very quickly and can read and write words quite well. To his great happiness, he can the read the hoardings on buses on his own to figure where the bus is headed and does not need to***

***rely on other people's help any longer.***

***Sitendra, another student has made good progress in all the academic areas and has enrolled for the class 3 OBE examination.***

Classes in academic areas, such as Math, English, Science and Hindi are conducted according to the plans drawn up by the teacher. In addition, the teacher discusses topics on Home Science and Health too with the boys. The teacher spends more time after class hours with children who need additional help.

Various Yoga Asanas have helped the boys develop a sense of calm and to focus on learning. Activities such as story telling, Anthakshari and Debate have kept the boys' minds ticking and have provided an opportunity for them to articulate their opinions and showcase their talent.

### **Second Chance School**

The boys have done well in their annual examinations.

***Suraj Kumar who appeared for the class 9 examinations secured an aggregate of 53% and Secured the second rank in the class. He was promoted to class 10.***

David and Manglu Ram who appeared for the class 8 exam have also secured an aggregate of

53% and have been promoted to class 9 of another NDMC School.

Minku has been promoted to class 8.

Manoj Kumar who has completed the class 12 Board Examination has been attending NIOS Computer Classes regularly.

***Vinod Kumar has been enrolled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the BA programme. He attends the BA classes once a week. He has also started work at a company called Linux Bazaar at Alaknanda and manages online transactions on their website.***

Abbas, Kundan and Shyam prepared for the class 10 Exams to be held in April.

Pradeep, who is from Jharkhand works as an apprentice at a Cyber Café in Mahipalpur.

Anant has been enrolled for the Motor Mechanic Course at Anish Motors, Munirka and has been regular to the classes there.

Dinesh Kumar attends the Cutting and Tailoring classes at ITI regularly. He has been provided with all the materials required for his practical classes. He has learnt to tailor quite a few garments.

Subodh Kalyan also from Jharkand has completed the class 10 exam and attends the Computer classes regularly.

Nasir has been enrolled at the Kusumpur Pahari Learning Centre and is an eager learner. He had never been to school and did not know the alphabets when he first started classes, but now he can read and write Hindi quite fluently.

Ali and Faisal are doing well at Cosmic Kitchen Gurgaon and the Trident Hotel in Gurgaon respectively.

The Second Chance boys attended the Musical Programme 'Opus in the Greens' with Sonam Kalra on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. **They wore the T-Shirts that were provided by Mr Vikram Seth a well-wisher of Ritinjali.** The boys were assigned different responsibilities, which they carried out very efficiently. They also presented a token of appreciation to the artistes after the show.

**Mr. Arvinder Pal Singh Anand visited the Second Chance School on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April and interacted with the boys. He discussed their future plans and promised to help them train as Crane mechanics. Abbas, Anant and Subodh have started on this training already.**

Six boys of the Second Chance School accompanied a group of students from Thailand on a 10 day excursion to Agra, Varanasi, Gaya, Sarnath and Dharamshala. The boys were provided with new clothes and other requirements for the trip. A lunch was

organized for them on their return on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May at the Second Chance School. The boys established a good rapport with the visiting students from Thailand and promised to keep in touch through e-mail.

Dr. Nisha and Sister Mary of Ranbaxy visited the Second Chance School on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March. They talked about the precautions to be taken to protect against diseases.

A cricket match was organized between the students of the Second Chance School, the Night School and boys from Pallavanjali on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. The boys enjoyed the game thoroughly and tucked in heartily into the sumptuous lunch thereafter.

#### NIOS CCA

##### 7<sup>th</sup> Batch

The students were taught about query form and report designing using Wizard in FoxPro and also different data base systems using system analysis and design. Practical sessions were held on relevant topics and mock tests based on the NIOS exams were conducted. The students appeared for the theory exams on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of May and the practical exam on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunita Kumari, a student of the 7<sup>th</sup> batch has got a job of a Computer Operator cum Office Assistant in a company called**

**Green Earth Earth Pvt Ltd. In Gurgaon.**

##### 8<sup>th</sup> Batch

The students of the batch were given an overview of different software programming languages and various kinds of software. They were taught to use MS Word and given assignments in Word where they would have to incorporate as many options of Word into the task. They were also exposed to MS Excel and taught how to format a worksheet. The use of the various number systems in computers was explained to them.

Admissions to the 9<sup>th</sup> batch have started and introductory classes have begun too.

#### NIOS Tailoring

##### 7<sup>th</sup> Batch

The students were taught to draft paper patterns and to cut and stitch shirts, kurtas and baba suits. Theory classes were also held on fitting of garments and the right choice of colours for garments.

The students were geared for the practical examination with a lot of revision on the work done in the course of the session and 8 students appeared for the exam.

##### 8<sup>th</sup> Batch

The students of the batch learnt to stitch saree falls and make

patterns of salwars on paper. They were also taught to draft cut and stitch a plain suit and garments with different kinds of necklines. During the theory classes, various drafting and measuring tools and their utility was demonstrated to the students.

#### Private Batch

These students neither have basic literacy nor do they meet the basic criteria for admission to the NIOS course but yearn to learn the trade of tailoring. They are admitted to this batch and are charged a fee of Rs. 150/- a month. The 10 students of this batch were taught to stitch different types of frocks and suits and given practice in handwork such as hook eye, buttonhole fixing and taming.

14 students have been admitted to the 9<sup>th</sup> batch of this course.

#### Bag Making

Various kinds of bags were stitched by the students in the course of the month. 146 red carry bags, 303 green and red cloth bags and 80 white poly bags were got ready by the students.

Another initiative that has been successful is the conversion of old clothes that were procured into beautiful durries and bed spreads.

In all there were 35 students who pursued the tailoring course

in different batches during the month.

The students become self sufficient at the end of the course and some of them enroll their siblings for the course too.

#### DRISHTI

As part of the IEC Campaign to spread awareness regarding Life Skills, a puppet show was organized in four villages of four different administrative blocks of Jhalawar district. In each of the four villages of Badbad, Pagariyal, Sojpur and Raipur Ritinjali resource persons met with villagers, teachers and students to elicit their support to ensure that a maximum number of people got to view the show and benefit from its underlying message.

As a result the puppet shows were organized very efficiently and the elaborate arrangements that were made catered to the comfort of the viewing public who had gathered in large numbers to watch the show in each venue.

Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandal which was hired by Ritinjali for the puppet show has organized several such programmes on contemporary issues such as gender sensitization, sanitation, HIV /AIDS, early motherhood and religious functions in the past.

Before the two and a half hour show in each of the venues, the audience was informed about the

relevance of the programme and Ritinjali's Life Skills Curriculum in the Government Schools meant for their children.

#### Class Room Observation of the Life Skills Programme in Jhalawar and Kota

The teachers continued to implement the Life Skills curriculum although the children of Class 8 were busy with preparations for the board examinations. Ritinjali resource people visited the schools to observe the class room implementation of the curriculum.

They also prepared a list of the students who were given the questionnaire during the baseline survey, These students have to be contacted for the end of the line survey in July 2009,

Before the class 8 children appeared for their Board examination Ritinjali resource people managed to meet many of the students in their respective schools to wish them good luck for their examinations.

Ashish along with the other Ritinjali staff in Jhalawar visited the schools to take stock of the life skills programme for students of class 7 and 8. They met student beneficiaries of the Drishti project and a few teachers of BLS schools from UPS Kanwalda and Sojpur [Khanpur Jhalawar], and Lakshmipura,

Satalkhedi Khan and Suket.[  
Kherabad of Kota district.]

All the activities related to the implementation of our Drishti project in Kota and Jhalawar districts were documented this month.

All the programme associates of Drishti were helped by the Project in Charge to fill up the Personal Growth and Development Programme form to decide their plans and goals.

As the ongoing project funded by ICRW was to end on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009, a new proposal for the extension of the project was required to be submitted. The new proposal has been written and submitted for their final approval this month.

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*Ritinjali welcomes contributions and volunteers for its cause. All donations will be exempt from Income tax u/s 80G*